

# ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

We have been advised by Public Health England that a child who attends this school has recently been reported as having meningococcal disease. This is an infection with the germ that can cause meningitis or septicaemia (blood poisoning). I realise that you may be concerned about this, but I have been reassured by Public Health England that when there is a single case of illness in a school, other children and staff at the school are at no greater risk of getting meningitis than the rest of the population and they do not need antibiotics or any vaccination (outside of those routinely given). If your child is well they should attend school as usual.

The germ that causes meningococcal disease is often found in our throats. In most people it causes no symptoms at all, but a few people become ill when they pick up the germ.

Symptoms of meningitis or septicaemia may include:

- Severe headache
- Neck stiffness
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Drowsiness or confusion
- Discomfort from bright light
- Limb joint or muscle pain
- Rash which does not go pale when pressed

It is important that you are always vigilant, and if anyone becomes ill with symptoms of meningitis or septicaemia you should get urgent medical help right away.

You can find out more about meningitis and meningococcal disease from:

The Meningitis Research Foundation [www.meningitis.org](http://www.meningitis.org) 080 8800 3344 (24hours)

Meningitis Now [www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org) 080 8801 0388 (9am and 8pm)

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Hampson  
Executive Headteacher